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FLOOR DEBATE

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SENATOR BEUTLER: Senator Wehrbein, members of the Legislature, I want to make two preliminary comments on this particular amendment. The first one is that I intend to withdraw it and refile it on Select File, because I just filed the amendment and there may be some groups out there that are interested in it. I think everyone will be okay with it. I've had a chance to talk to Senator Landis about it and I think he's okay, but I've kind of sprung it on the Vice Chair of the committee, and the other members of the committee have not had an opportunity to think about it or deal with it, so it will be handled in that manner. Secondly, I want to say that this is a response to a problem that came up with some work that I did for the Parks Department of the city of Lincoln, and so if anyone thinks this is a conflict of interest, you should know what...how it came about. But here's what happened. Some very fine people who live in Tennessee now wanted to donate to the city of Lincoln some land that was outside the city limits but within the greenbelt. We greenbelt all land in Lancaster County, I think. And they did, in fact, donate land for a future park on the east side of the city. And when the transaction take place then, the city assessor indicated that the recapture of this greenbelt land would still take place, notwithstanding the fact the land was being donated to a city. And so what this amendment would say is that, in cases where the land is being transferred as a donation to a city or to a county or an NRD or any political subdivision or any charitable organization, that the recapture would not take place, and that this would provide a small incentive for folks who are interested in giving land for charitable purposes of one type or another. Usually, you know, we require recapture because the land has been sold to commercial interests and there's been a big profit and gain, but in this instance it's a situation where the land is not being given for profit but, rather, being donated in fact. And it would be helpful to all political subdivisions and charitable organizations to have a little incentive to encourage people by letting them know that the recapture would not have to be paid in the instance of a donation. I'll leave it open for a couple of minutes in case anybody has a reaction or anything to say about it, but otherwise, next opportunity I have to speak, I will withdraw it and resubmit it on Select File. Thank you for